Release of POWs from Pakistani jails

†2623. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had entered into any agreement on release of Indian POWs lodged in Pakistan's jails at the time of release of about one lakh prisoners of Pakistan after ceasefire in 1971;

(b) if so, the roadmap thereof;

(c) whether any process has now been prescribed to search 71 Indian POWs of 1971 war;

(d) the assistance that would be extended by Pakistan in this process; and

(e) the facility that would be extended by Government of Pakistan to the kins of missing Indian soldiers of 1971 war?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) After the Simla agreement of 1972 both countries had agreed to release all POWs in their custody. Pakistan does not acknowiedge the presence of any Prisoners of War in its jails. However, according to available information, there are 74 Indian Prisoners of War in Pakistani jails, including 54 since 1971-72.

(b) to (e) Government have been consistently taking up the issue of POWs with Pakistan. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in January 2007, the issue of POWs was again taken up with Pakistan authorities. Pakistan agreed to accepted a-delegation of family members of the missing defence personnel to various jails in Pakistan.

Agreement on Indo-US nuclear deal

2624. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks between India and US were recently held to reach an amicable agreement on a civil nuclear deal between the two countries signed in July 2005;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.